

19.75.020 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

“Active fault” means a fault displaying evidence of greater than four inches of displacement along one or more of its traces during Holocene time (about 10,000 years ago to the present).

“Avalanche” means a large mass of snow, ice, and debris in swift motion down a slope; includes both wet and dry snow avalanches.

“Buildable area” means that portion of a site where an approved engineering geology and/or geotechnical report, as required, has indicated is not impacted by geologic hazards, or concluded that the identified hazards can be mitigated to a level where risk to human life and property are reduced to an acceptable and reasonable level, and where structures may be safely sited. Buildable areas must be clearly marked on the site plan and/or final approved plat, as appropriate.

“Critical facilities” means essential facilities, and lifelines such as major utility, transportation, and communication facilities and their connections to essential facilities.

“Debris flow” means a slurry of rock, soil, organic material, and water transported in an extremely fast and destructive flow that flows down channels and onto and across alluvial fans; includes a continuum of sedimentation events and processes including debris, flows, debris floods, mudflows, clearwater floods, and alluvial fan flooding.

“Development” includes all critical and essential facilities, subdivisions, single- and multi-family dwellings, commercial and industrial buildings, additions to existing buildings, storage facilities, pipelines and utility conveyances, and other land uses.

“Engineering geologist” means a geologist who, through education, training and experience, is able to conduct field investigations and interpret geologic conditions to assure that geologic factors affecting engineered works are recognized, adequately interpreted, and presented for use in engineering practice and for the protection of the public.

“Engineering geology” means the application of geological data, principles and interpretation so that geological factors affecting planning, design, construction, and maintenance of engineered works are properly recognized and adequately interpreted.

“Essential facility” means buildings and other structures that are intended to remain operational in the event of extreme environmental loading from snow or earthquakes, including all Category II and III structures as classified in Table 1604.5 of the Building Code.

“Fault” means a fracture in the earth’s crust forming a boundary between rock or soil masses that have moved relative to each other (see “Active fault”).

“Fault setback” means an area on either side of a fault within which construction of structures for human occupancy or critical facilities is not permitted.

“Fault scarp” means a steep slope or cliff formed by movement along a fault.

“Fault trace” means the intersection of a fault plane with the ground surface, often present as a fault scarp, or detected as a lineament on aerial photographs.

“Fault zone” means a corridor of variable width along one or more fault traces, within which deformation has occurred.

“Geologic hazard” means a surface fault rupture, liquefaction, landslide, debris flow, rockfall, avalanche, and/or other geologic processes that may present a risk to life and property.

“Geologic hazard maps” refers to the following maps showing Geologic Hazards Special Study Areas in unincorporated Salt Lake County:

A. “Surface Fault Rupture and Liquefaction Potential Special Study Areas” dated March 31, 1989 and revised March 1995;

B. “Avalanche Special Study Areas” dated March 31, 1989;

C. “Landslide, Debris Flow, and Rockfall Special Study Area Map” dated April 9, 2002.

“Geologic Hazard Special Study Area” means a potentially hazardous area as shown on the geological

hazards maps, or in other areas defined under “Applicability” (Section 19.75.030), within which hazard investigations are generally required prior to development.

“Geotechnical Engineer” means a professional engineer licensed in the State of Utah whose education, training and experience, is in the field of geotechnical engineering.

“Geotechnical Engineering” means the investigation and engineering evaluation of earth materials including soil, rock and man-made materials and their interaction with earth retention systems, foundations, and other civil engineering works. The practice involves the fields of soil mechanics, rock mechanics, and earth sciences and requires knowledge of engineering laws, formulas, construction techniques, and performance evaluation of engineering.

“Governing body” means the County Council, or to a future successor body to the County Council.

“Landslide” means a general term for the downslope movement of a mass of soil, surficial deposits or bedrock, including a continuum of processes between landslides, earthflows, mudflows, debris flows and debris avalanches, and rockfall.

“Liquefaction” means a process by which certain water-saturated soils lose bearing strength because of earthquake-related ground shaking and subsequent increase of groundwater pore pressure.

“Non-Buildable Area” means that portion of a site which an engineering geology report has concluded may be impacted by geologic hazards that cannot be feasibly mitigated to a safe level, and where siting of structures is not permitted.

“Rockfall” means a rock, or mass of rock, newly detached from a cliff or other steep slope which moves downslope by falling, rolling, toppling, or bouncing; includes rockslides, rockfall avalanches, and talus.

“Setback” means an area within which construction of habitable structures or critical facilities is not permitted.

“Slope Stability” means the resistance of a natural or artificial slope or other inclined surface to failure by landsliding; usually assessed under both static and dynamic (earthquake induced) conditions.

“Structure designed for human occupancy” means any residential dwelling or other structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any human occupancy. (Ord. 1500 (part), 2002: Ord. 1473 (part), 2001: Ord. 1267 § 2, 1994; Ord. 1074 § 2 (part), 1989)